

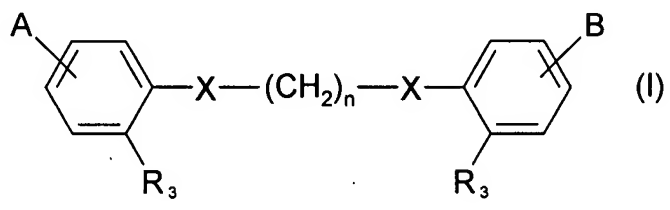
IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-16. (Canceled)

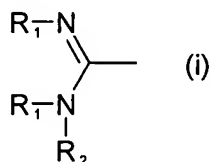
17. (Previously presented) A method for treating Alzheimer's disease in a subject in need of treatment thereof, the method comprising administering to the subject a therapeutic amount of an amidine compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

18. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 17, wherein the amidine comprises a compound of formula (I):



wherein:

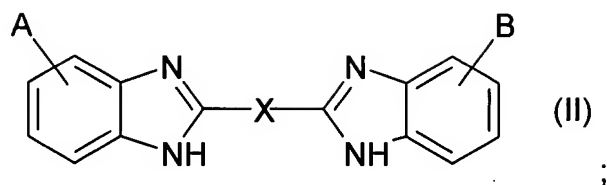
A and B are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, nitro, amino, aminoalkyl, halo, hydroxy, carboxy, and compounds of formula (i):



subject to the proviso that at least one of A and B is a compound of formula (i);

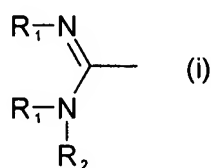
R₁ and R₂ are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, and alkylaminoalkyl;

or two R₁ groups on the same compound of formula (i) together represent $-(CH_2)_m-$ wherein m is 2, 3, or 4;



wherein:

A and B are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, nitro, amino, aminoalkyl, halo, hydroxy, carboxy, and compounds of formula (i):

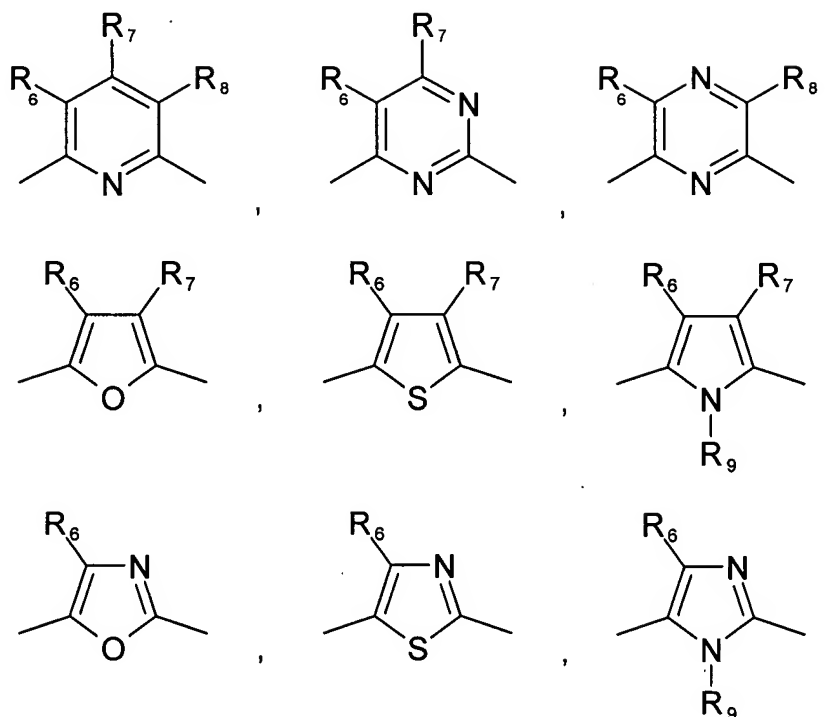


subject to the proviso that at least one of A and B is a compound of formula (i);

R₁ and R₂ are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, and alkylaminoalkyl;

or two R₁ groups on the same compound of formula (i) together represent —(CH₂)_m— wherein m is 2, 3, or 4;

X is a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated C₁-C₁₂ alkyl comprising up to 4 double bonds; or X is a heterocyclic aromatic group selected from the group consisting of:



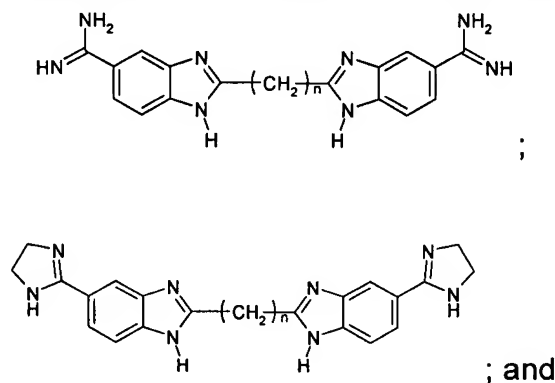
wherein

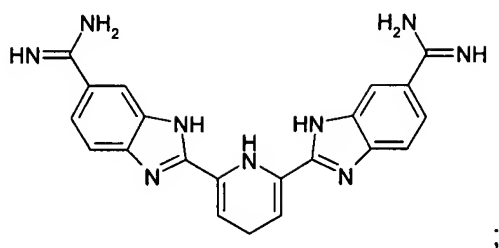
R_6 , R_7 , and R_8 are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, halogen, oxyalkyl, oxyaryl, or oxyarylalkyl;

R_9 is hydrogen, loweralkyl, hydroxy, aminoalkyl, or alkylaminoalkyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

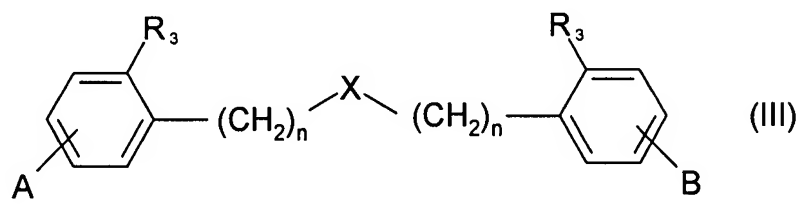
21. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 20, wherein the amidine comprises a compound selected from the group consisting of:





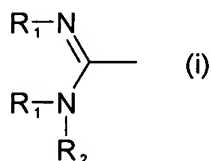
wherein n is an integer from 1 to 12;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

22. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 17, wherein the amidine comprises a compound of formula (III):



wherein:

A and B are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, nitro, amino, aminoalkyl, halo, hydroxy, carboxy, and compounds of formula (i):

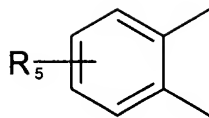


subject to the proviso that at least one of A and B is a compound of formula (i);

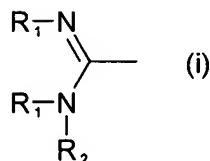
R₁ and R₂ are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl and alkylaminoalkyl;

or two R₁ groups on the same compound of formula (i) together represent —(CH₂)_m— wherein m is 2, 3, or 4;

or two R₁ groups on the same compound of formula (i) together represent



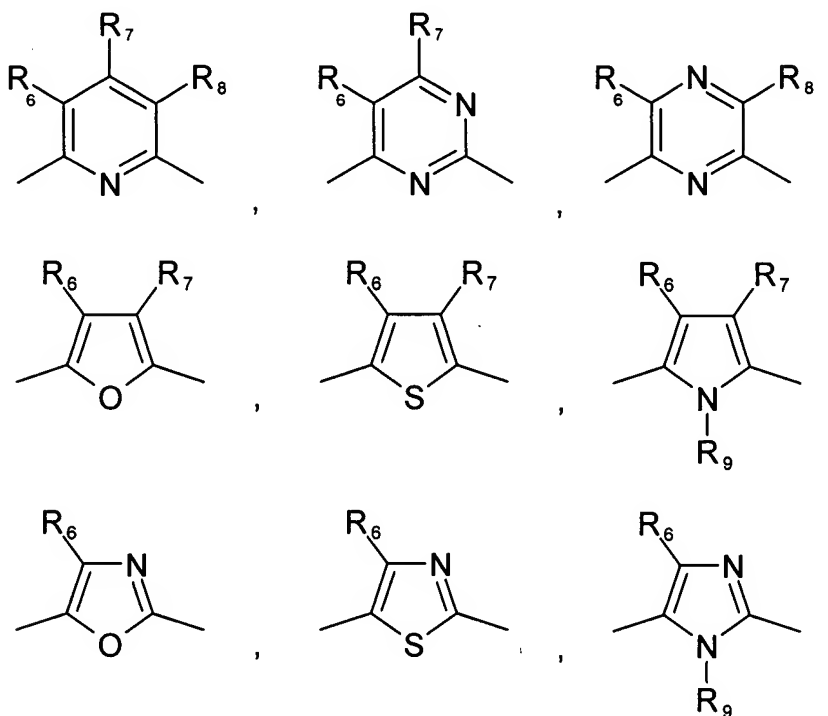
wherein R₅ is



R₃ is H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, or halogen;

n is an integer from 0 to 2; and

X is CH₂O or a heterocyclic aromatic group selected from the group consisting of:



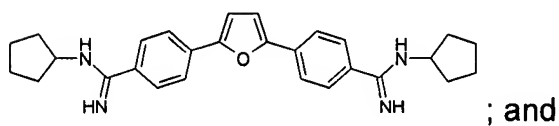
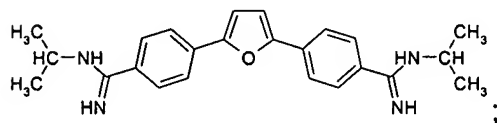
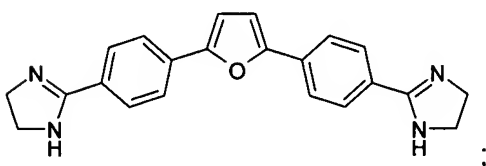
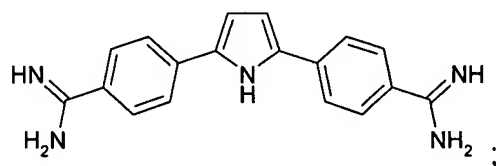
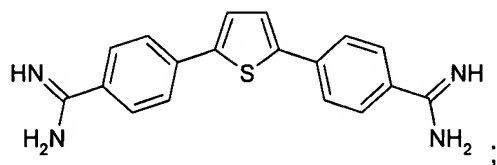
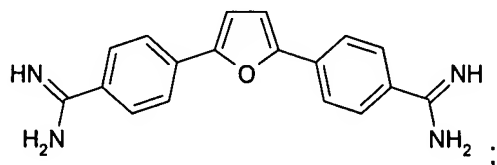
wherein:

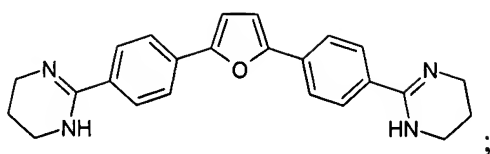
R₆, R₇, and R₈ are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, halogen, oxyalkyl, oxyaryl, or oxyarylalkyl;

R₉ is hydrogen, loweralkyl, hydroxy, aminoalkyl, or alkylaminoalkyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

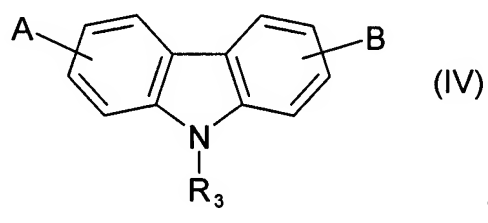
23. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 22 wherein the amidine comprises a compound selected from the group consisting of:





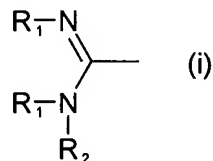
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

24. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 17, wherein the amidine comprises a compound of formula (IV):



wherein:

A and B are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, nitro, amino, aminoalkyl, halo, hydroxy, carboxy, and compounds of formula (i):

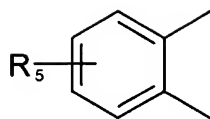


subject to the proviso that at least one of A and B is a compound of formula (i);

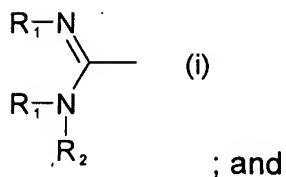
R₁ and R₂ are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, and alkylaminoalkyl;

or two R₁ groups on the same compound of formula (i) together represent —(CH₂)_m— wherein m is 2, 3, or 4;

or two R₁ groups on the same compound of formula (i) together represent



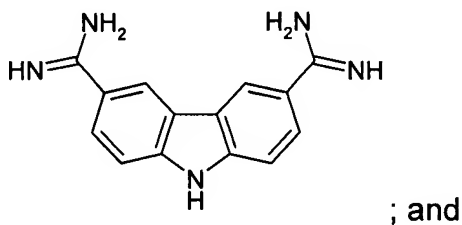
wherein R₅ is



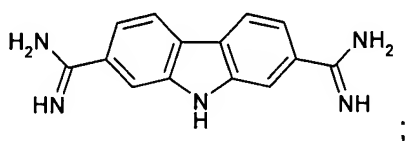
; and

R₃ is H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, or halogen;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

25. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 24 wherein the amidine comprises a compound selected from the group consisting of:



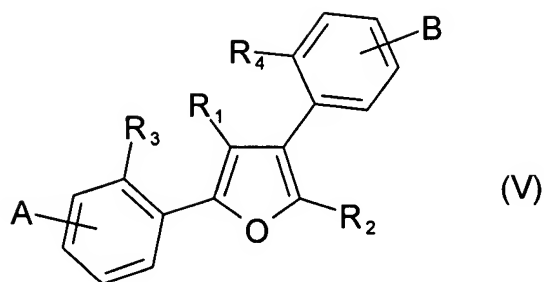
; and



;

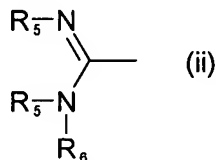
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

26. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 17, wherein the amidine comprises a compound of formula (V):



wherein:

A and B are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, nitro, amino, aminoalkyl, halo, hydroxy, carboxy, and compounds of formula (ii):



subject to the proviso that at least one of A and B is a compound of formula (ii);

R₁ and R₂ are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, aminoaryl, halogen, oxyalkyl, oxyaryl, or oxyarylalkyl;

R₃ and R₄ are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, alkylaryl, aryl, oxyaryl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, or halogen;

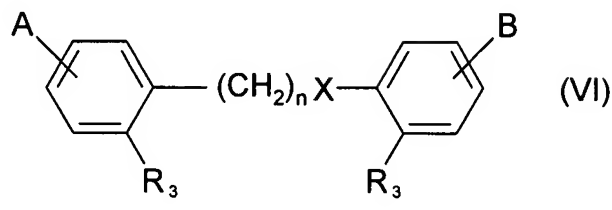
each R₅ is independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, or alkylaryl;

or two R₅ groups together represent C₂ to C₁₀ alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, or alkylene; and

R₆ is H, hydroxy, loweralkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, alkylamino, alkylaminoalkyl, cycloalkyl, hydroxycycloalkyl, alkoxycycloalkyl, aryl, and alkylaryl;

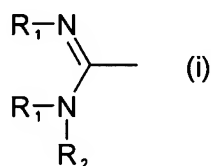
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

27. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 17, wherein the amidine comprises a compound of formula (VI):



wherein:

A and B are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, nitro, amino, aminoalkyl, halo, hydroxy, carboxy, and compounds of formula (i):



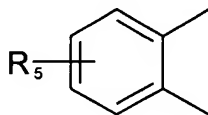
subject to the proviso that at least one of A and B is a compound of formula (i);

R₁ and R₂ are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, and alkylaminoalkyl;

or two R₁ groups on the same compound of formula (i) together represent —(CH₂)_m— wherein m is 2, 3, or 4;

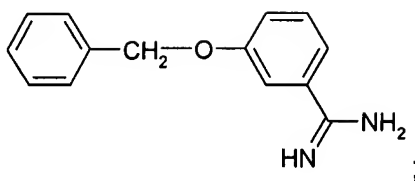
R₃ is H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, or halogen;

or two R₁ groups on the same compound of formula (i) together represent



wherein R₅ is

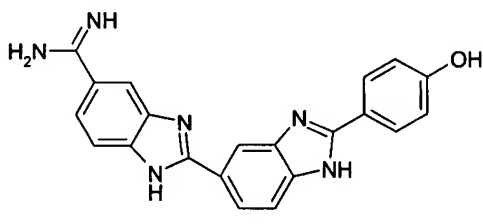
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or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

29. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 17 wherein the amidine comprises a bis-benzamidine.

30. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 17 wherein the amidine comprises a compound having the following structure:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

31. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 17, wherein the subject is afflicted with Alzheimer's disease.

32. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 17, wherein the subject is at risk of developing Alzheimer's disease, the treatment is a prophylactic treatment, and the amidine compound is administered in a prophylactically effective amount.

33-48. (Canceled)